

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park

2008-2009 Newsletter

For Teachers & School Groups

Quick Reference Numbers:

San Juan Bautista SHP: (831) 623-4881

www.ca.parks.gov

ReserveAmerica: (866) 240-4655

Mission San Juan Bautista: (831) 623-4528



Mission Or State Park?

Each year teachers and students misunderstand the difference between Mission San Juan Bautista and San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. The Mission includes the church, cemetery, rectory, and its own garden and gift shop. The State Park includes the Plaza lawn, Plaza Hotel, Castro-Breen Adobe, Plaza Stable, Plaza Hall, Vicky Cottage, Settler's Cabin, San Juan Jail, restrooms and several historic gardens. (The non-profit Plaza History Association operates the Plaza Hotel museum store with all proceeds supporting the interpretive programs.) The church and state park operate separately from each other.

Since we are located so close together and offer opportunities for learning California history, it is difficult to visit one and not the other. If your group is planning to access ANY portion of the State Park, including the Plaza Lawn or park restrooms, a reservation with the State Park is required. You should also make a reservation to visit the Mission at (831) 623-4528.

IMPORTANT NOTE: School groups arriving without a State Historic Park reservation **may be denied entrance into the Park OR required to pay an entrance fee of \$2.00 per adult.** Entrance fees are waived for all reserved groups.

**** Schools are REQUIRED to maintain a 1:5 chaperone to student ratio in the park.**

Program Fees

Please see page 2 for program descriptions

California Over Time, Mission Game, Wagons West, and Guided Tours can accommodate up to 42 people or one class. Conducted programs require interpretive staff and preparation time. Program fees are \$60.00 payable by cash or check on arrival at the park.

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CHECKS.

Make checks payable to: *California State Parks*. The teacher in charge must check in and pay all fees at the Plaza Hotel *prior* to the start of the reserved program(s).

All schools with confirmed program reservation(s) are responsible for payment upon arrival. Failure to submit payment or last minute cancellation of program(s) will result in an invoice to the school's district.



Contact Us!

We are happy to assist you in any way we can. Please contact us with your questions or concerns:

Phone: (831) 623-4881

Fax: (831) 623-4612

E-mail: acombs@parks.ca.gov or

dcable@parks.ca.gov

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park
2nd Street at Washington & Mariposa Sts.



San Juan Bautista State Historic Park 2008 ~ 2009 School Programs



Mission Game \$60.00 per Program

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park is proud to offer several options for learning and understanding early California History. Our programs are very popular and fill quickly since thousands of students visit annually. To prevent over-crowding, all groups must have a reservation. Use the following to decide which program best suits your needs and teaching style:

Self-Guided Visit No Charge with Reservations

Wander the grounds and museums on your own time schedule. Features include the:

Plaza Hotel & Castro/Breen Adobe
Zanetta House/Plaza Hall
Plaza Stable & Blacksmith shop
Spanish Garden & Settler's Cabin
Old San Juan Jail

Reservations for Self-Guided Visits are valid from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm on the date booked.

**Groups with a confirmed reservation for any interpreter lead program do NOT need to make an additional reservation for a Self-Guided Visit. Call ReserveAmerica - 866-240-4655.

California Over Time \$60.00 per Program

Join a park interpreter for a one-hour journey through the different times and cultures of San Juan Bautista. Using life-sized picture cut-outs, select students will "become" a character of early California. This program helps students visualize the daily life and dress of people and covers the four main cultures - Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and American. The program is conducted in the Plaza Hotel.

Call ReserveAmerica for available program dates and times - 866-240-4655.

This program focuses on mission architecture and layout. Each class is divided into 8 groups of students. Groups use a game board and wooden blocks to design a mission quadrangle using clues and information given by the park interpreter. This hour-long hands-on activity encourages critical thinking and teamwork while students learn the reasons behind the layout of a mission. This program is conducted in the Plaza Hotel.

Call ReserveAmerica for available program dates and times - 866-240-4655.

**Note - Mission Game does NOT include a tour of Mission San Juan Bautista.

New Programs for 2009:

Wagons West! \$60.00 per Program, Thursdays Only

Beginning January 2009 our newest program will take your class through the trials and tribulations of wagon travel. Classes will divide into groups and form a wagon train. Supplies will be determined and loaded onto miniature wagons, a trail boss will be chosen, and the wagons will "roll". As they "cross" the country, groups will encounter hazards and will brainstorm solutions as a class. But, keep moving, if you don't reach California by the end of the program - all will be lost.

Call the Plaza Hotel for available program dates and times - 831-623-4881.

Guided Tours \$60.00 per Program, Thursdays Only

Discover the major features of the state park with an interpretive guide. Classes will be taken through the buildings and grounds while the guide describes the history, purpose, families, and use of the various artifacts.

Call the Plaza Hotel for available program dates and times - 831-623-4881.

ReserveAmerica Information

California State Parks uses ReserveAmerica for reservations. It is our goal to provide clear and accurate instructions and information so your experience with ReserveAmerica is positive and user-friendly. We hope this list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers will assist you in “navigating the system.”

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I make a reservation? Can I book on the Internet?

A. All school group reservations during the traditional school year* must be made through ReserveAmerica. Call toll free 866-240-4655. ReserveAmerica takes reservations 8:00am – 5:00pm, 7 days a week. *Beginning in January 2009 all reservations on Thursdays must be made by calling the park at 831-623-4881.

Q. What happens if I want to book a visit and there is no room on the day I want to come?

A. We recommend having at least three alternate dates to visit when you call ReserveAmerica. Also, consider visiting during less busy times, such as fall or winter. If you absolutely must visit in the spring, call ReserveAmerica as soon as reservations are accepted.

Q. Can I book for paid programs and then cancel the program when I arrive at the Park?

A. No, fee based programs require extra staff and preparation. If you book a paid program, your school/district will be responsible for all charges.

Q. If we book for the mission and do not make a reservation for the park, can we still use the Plaza lawn and restrooms?

A. No, if the park is at maximum capacity, your school group will be turned away. If space is available, all park fees will apply and charged prior to entry.

Q. If I book an interpretive program, do I also have to book a self-guided visit?

A. No, when you book an interpretive program, the self-guided visit is automatically included in the reservation. Please do not double book your school.

Q. What happens if I have to cancel a reservation?

A. If you need to cancel your visit, please call both ReserveAmerica and San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, 831-623-4881.

Q. Where can I find maps and teacher materials?

A. For additional information, maps, and teacher materials, please visit the California State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov. (Make sure to enter San Juan Bautista State Historic Park in the *FIND A PARK* box).

Shhhh!

Our interpretive programs are equivalent to class time. Please remind everyone that cell phones and non-program conversations will not be allowed during the program.

Thank You!



Check-In Procedures & Field Trip Behavior

Whether you have booked a self-guided visit or fee based program, all schools are required to check-in with park staff at the Plaza Hotel immediately upon arrival. At check-in, you may be given a copy of the state park rules to go over with your students, or a staff member may orient your group to the park rules and features.

In order to preserve the unique resource of San Juan Bautista State Historic Park and to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment, it is imperative that all teachers and chaperones are aware that *they* are responsible for their students' behavior. If any pattern of misconduct is observed, the group may be asked to leave the park, and a letter mailed to the school's principal.